

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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R 261306Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4748

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 07562

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL, BE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES

REF BRUSSELS 7482

1. SUMMARY. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED SERIES OF US DEMARCHES AIMED AT GETTING NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT TO RESCIND ITS PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN ITS ARMED FORCES. END SUMMARY

2. BELGIANS HAVE CONVOKED DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND MADE SAME ARGUEMENTS TO HIM THAT WE USED WITH THEM. IN ADDITION,

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BELGIANS INFORMED NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR THAT DUTCH PROPOSAL

WAS CLEARLY ONE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BILATERALLY

BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS PRIOR TO ITS BEING
PRESENTED TO NATO. BELGIANS TOLD DUTCH THAT FOR REASONS
REPORTED PARA 2 REFTEL, THAT BELGIUM CONSIDERED DUTCH PROPOSAL
IN EVEN MORE SERIOUS LIGHT THAN DID USG.

3. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN THE HAGUE HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO MAKE
SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL OF DUTCH
GOVERNMENT.

4. BEGIN NOFORN. BELGIUM HAS PROPOSED BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS
WITH NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT ON REDUCTION ISSUE, NOTING THAT
SUBJECT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT LAST REGULAR SEMI-
ANNUAL BILATERAL MEETING OF MINISTERS. END NOFORN.

5. BELGIANS INFORMED US THAT THEIR DUTCH COUNTERPARTS HAD
WELCOMED DEMARCHES BEING MADE AS THEY NEEDED ALL THE ARGUMENTS
AND PRESSURES FROM THEIR ALLIES THEY COULD GET IN ORDER TO
CONVINCE DUTCH PARLIAMENT THAT REDUCTION PROPOSAL WAS ILL-
FOUNDED AND SHOULD BE RESCINDED. RENNER

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NNN

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